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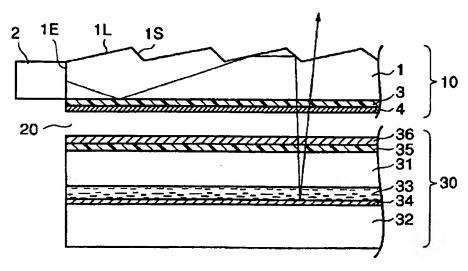
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SURFACE ILLUMINATION DEVICE AND DISPLAY DEVICE USING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: An object of the invention is to provide a surface illumination device and a display device using it, which can contribute to improvement of display qualities. A surface illumination device 10 comprising a light guide plate 1 for propagating incident light inside itself and reflecting the light at the reflecting prism face 1S to output the light from the light exit face. This further comprises: a polarizing plate 3 provided on the light exit face; and an anti-reflection film 4 provided on the polarizing plate 3. The reflecting prism face 1S extends so that a direction of electric vector's vibration of an s-polarized light component of a reflecting light ray caused by an incident light ray in a predetermined propagation direction is in parallel with a polarization axis of the polarizing plate 3, whereby a light efficiency can be improved.

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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, Cl, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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PCT/IB 03/01539 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G02B6/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G02B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ EP 0 950 851 A (NITTO DENKO CORP) 1-3,7,8, 20 October 1999 (1999-10-20) 12-14 cited in the application paragraph '0061! - paragraph '0065! paragraph '0086! - paragraph '0094!; Υ 4-6. figure 8 9-11,15, 16 Υ PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 4-6, vol. 1999, no. 13, 9-11,15, 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) 16 -& JP 11 231320 A (ENPLAS CORP), 27 August 1999 (1999-08-27) cited in the application abstract; figures 1,2,12 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 18 August 2003 26/08/2003 Name and malling address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016

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